

Applicants: Sung-Kyu KANG et al.

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend claims 8-9 to read as shown below:

1. (Original) A method for dewatering sewage sludge by using sludge-coal-oil co-agglomeration ("SOCA"), comprising the steps of:

physically, chemically or biologically conditioning sludge to impart hydrophobicity and lipophilicity to the sludge (conditioning step);

supplying oil and coal to the conditioned sludge with stirring to form sludge-coal-oil agglomerates (agglomerating step);

enlarging the particle diameter of sludge-coal-oil agglomerates (size enlargement step); and

passing the enlarged sludge-coal-oil agglomerates through a sieve to selectively separate them (screening step).

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by feeding coal and oil to the conditioned sludge while stirring at a high speed to form sludge-coal-oil agglomerates having a diameter of larger than 500 $\mu\text{m}$ , and an operation for increasing the agglomeration force of the agglomerates is performed after the agglomerating step.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by simultaneously feeding conditioned coal and oil to the conditioned sludge.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the

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agglomerating step is carried out by separately agglomerating the conditioned sludge and conditioned coal with oil (a first agglomeration), mixing the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by agglomerating the conditioned sludge with oil (a first agglomeration), adding conditioned coal and conditioned oil to the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the agglomerating step is carried out by agglomerating conditioned coal with oil (a first agglomeration), adding the conditioned sludge to the first agglomerates, and agglomerating the mixture (a second agglomeration).

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an operation for increasing the agglomeration force of the agglomerates by stirring the agglomerates at a low speed using an agitator, pan-disk or tumbler, after the agglomerating step.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the oil used in the agglomerating step is selected from heavy oil, light oil, kerosene, cooking oil, waste cooking oil, castor oil, soybean oil, hempseed oil, waste lubricant and mixtures thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~

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~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the agglomerates are spray-washed and dewatered after they are selectively separated from unagglomerated materials.